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Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Serial No. 09/917,853

The relevance of each non-English language reference, if any,
is discussed in the present specification.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan M. Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "L" at the end.

Allan M. Lowe
Registration No. 19,641

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111/FAX: (703) 518-5499
AML:cjf
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